

WASHINGTON— Today, U.S. Representative Mike Quigley delivered the following remarks on the House floor in honor of LGBT Pride Month and next weekend's Gay Pride Parade in Chicago.

*Mister Speaker, I rise in celebration of June as Pride Month. Participating and supporting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community is a way of life. At its core, this month stands to recognize a fundamental belief upon which this country is founded: equality.*

*The first pride parade took place in 1970 to commemorate the Stonewall Riots in New York. Forty years later, the event has become much more than a parade – it has evolved into a month-long celebration of the LGBT community. What was once a moment is now a movement, bringing people together to fight for the rights and benefits granted to them by the Constitution, rights we should all fully support and fight for every day in Washington.*

*We've got a few victories under our belt – Hate Crimes legislation and the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell have passed these chambers – but there remains much to be done. I look forward to celebrating equality for all this weekend at the Chicago Pride Parade and festival, and I am as emboldened as ever, to continue this important work in Congress.*

Video of the speech is available [here](#) .

Quigley, in his second term in Congress, has made LGBT equality one of his [top legislative priorities](#) . He

was an ardent supporter of [repealing 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'](#) and is a

[co-sponsor of the Respect for Marriage Act](#)

, which would ensure that all couples who assume the serious legal responsibilities of marriage are treated fairly under federal law.